

March 17, 2016

A regular meeting of the Village Board of Harrison, Westchester County New York was held at the Municipal Building, 1 Heineman Place, Harrison, NY, Westchester County, on Thursday March 17, 2016 at 7:30 PM Eastern Standard Time. All members having received due notice of said meeting:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald Belmont Mayor

Marlane Amelio)
Stephen Malfitano) Trustees
Fred Sciliano)
Joseph Stout)

ALSO ATTENDING:

Frank Allegretti Town Attorney
Jonathan Kraut Village Attorney
Christopher Cipolla Deputy Village Attorney
Anthony Marraccini Chief of Police
Michael Amodeo Village Engineer
Anthony Robinson Commissioner of Public Works

March 17, 2016

V - - 2016 - - 014

APPROVAL OF A PURCHASE ORDER ISSUED TO INTELLI-TEC SECURITY SERVICES, FOR THE PURCHASE OF HIGH DEFINITION CCTV SYSTEMS FOR THE TOWN WIDE SURVEILLANCE PROJECT

On motion of Trustee Sciliano, seconded by Trustee Amelio,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by the Purchasing Department for approval of Purchase Order #360859, issued to Intelli-Tec Security Services, for the purchase of (10) High Definition CCTV systems for the town wide surveillance project, in an amount of \$95,630.00. The equipment will be purchased through New York State Contract #PT64406. Funding is available in the 2014 Police Capital Budget, 14PO21, account #006-3120-100-98-70.

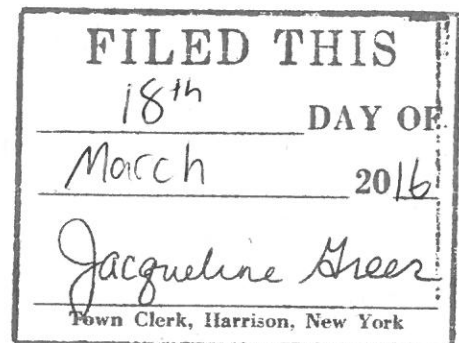
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Purchasing Department, the Chief of Police and the Treasurer.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Trustees Amelio, Malfitano, Sciliano and Stout
Mayor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None



March 17, 2016

V -- 2016 -- 015

AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A NEW MASTER PRICE AGREEMENT
WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICIALS

On motion of Trustee Amelio, seconded by Trustee Stout,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by Treasurer Maureen MacKenzie for authorization to enter into a new Master Price Agreement with the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) in order to purchase through NASPO cooperative contracts.

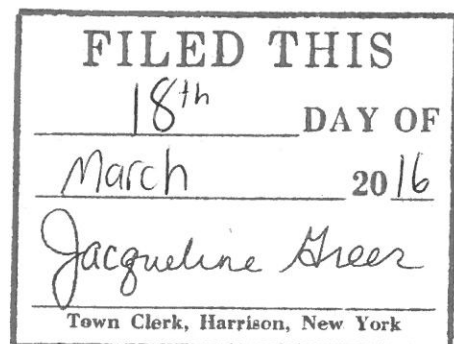
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Treasurer.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Trustees Amelio, Malfitano, Sciliano and Stout
Mayor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None



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V - - 2016 - - 016

ELIMINATION OF THE COMMERCIAL GARBAGE AND
RECYCLING COLLECTION PROGRAM

Harrison resident James Murabito said he heard that this change would eliminate commercial garbage pickup but some businesses will be allowed the option of having two pails picked up twice a week like residential pick up but not others, he asked for clarification.

Commissioner of Public Works Anthony Robinson replied by explaining that essentially what the proposal offered is any business that is currently utilizing pails will continue to be picked up. A business that is utilizing containers can't return to pails.

Harrison resident James Murabito asked why wouldn't you extend two pails twice a week to all businesses? We are all paying commercial taxes. It will eliminate one dumpster for him if he got two pails picked up twice a week. That would cut his private carting bill in half. He remarked that it doesn't seem fair that you are going to let my neighbor have four pails picked up a week and not his business.

Trustee Sciliano and Trustee Stout both said they were under the same impression that it was everybody getting two pails per week picked up.

Harrison resident James Murabito opined that private carting may be unsightly. When businesses don't pay their bills or are delinquent and the trash is not picked up down Halstead Avenue how will this be addressed?

Mayor Belmont said we have a Building Inspector.

Harrison resident James Murabito said you can fine someone as much as you want. If they are not going to pay their trash bill, then private carting is not going to pick it up. Mr. Murabito was under the impression that school and church pickups would also be eliminated. If the schools are eliminated, their budget would have to increase leading to a trickle down increase in school taxes. This is going to hit the commercial business two fold. We are going to have to pay for private carting and our taxes are going to go up because school taxes will increase.

Mayor Belmont said he met with the Harrison School Superintendent and he is on board with this proposal.

Harrison resident James Murabito said that merchants predominantly donate to children sporting events, journals and donations. If businesses have to start footing the bill for private carting it is going to affect this too.

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Business Owner Jack Butler said he owns three buildings in Harrison that he purchased very inexpensively 30 years ago. He explained that he pays more in taxes today than the buildings are worth. They are all 100 years old. He constantly maintains them; and keeps them in top shape. The Town made us get rid of the pails and now we have three dumpsters which aren't really needed all the time. He asked the Board if they knew the cost for private carting. He asked if the Board knew what is going on in town and if they shop in town? He suggested business in town is non-existent and people go to Port Chester for the big stores. Business isn't good, we are all working many hours. Small business owners don't get paid when they don't work. They don't get holiday pay and they don't get sick pay. You guys are charging the poor business owners for picking up their garbage. Our taxes go up and we lose services. He asked the Board to re-think the proposal.

Trustee Malfitano said the Board looked at the cost at providing the service. Within the commercial program there are a variety of users. There are 46 stops that use one or two pails, like a residence. On the complete opposite end of the spectrum, food stores and restaurants produce massive amounts of refuse. The cost for providing the service is over \$1,000,000. The Board is looking for ways to keep taxes as close to a zero increase as possible. The town should not be picking up commercial refuse. It's way too much in terms of volume and it puts more stress and strain on our people and the budget. There isn't any way that everyone is going to be happy but when we examine the program we know we can reduce the cost to the taxpayer. In particular, there is some component of the commercial program that is really truly a commercial pick up for us. The Board looks at this as something that needs to be addressed from a taxpayer standpoint and an opportunity for us to not reduce services but to reduce expenses so we don't have to raise taxes. Everyone in this program pays the town a fee every year and some people only put out one or two pails of garbage where another food store has multiple containers. What this board is trying to do is balance this. We don't want to hurt anybody. I've had a number of calls from people who are part of the current commercial program who already figured out, even people with one or two dumpsters, that they may actually see the cost of the refuse decrease in pick up. That doesn't mean that everyone is going to experience that; some people are going to pay a lot more money, particularly the large user. You may end up breaking even, costing more, I can't tell you that. The point is that the Commercial Garbage Program in the Town/Village of Harrison has within it a whole range of uses, from one pail and two pails a week to multiple ten yard containers. When you sit here and try to make a judgment as to whether or not we should be in that business there certainly some component of that business that quite frankly we shouldn't be in. When you look at the communities around us, most of them are not in this business. We understand what it costs us to produce and we have a responsibility to the taxpayer to look at it.

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Business Owner Jack Butler asked if we are going to be paying the \$1,500 that we are paying now?

Trustee Malfitano answered no. You will not be paying that; that goes away.

Business Owner Jack Butler said we are going to pay lower this year with a carting company and then it will go up and in a couple of years it will be three times what we are paying now. There has to be another alternative to this.

Trustee Malfitano said I have been told that there have already been a number of companies that have expressed an interest. The alternative that the town has looked at is charging more for the service.

Dominick Cassanelli Jr, Vice President of Teamsters Local 456 spoke on behalf of the Harrison Sanitation employees. He told the Board that the members he represents are some of the best workers you have and he hoped they realized that. He suggested that this decision will at some point be a detriment to the union members. We represent private carting as well as the public sector. He explained that private carting gives the customer a sweet deal in the beginning and a bad one in the end. Private trucks will be coming in at all hours of the night. This is a concern that the taxpayers should have as well as the commercial property owners. Another concern is after the business selects a carter they will raise the rates and this is something that the commercial property owners will have to deal with. You can have pickets or strikes in front of commercial property owners because some of these guys won't be signed to unions. Once they stop picking up the garbage because they are being picketed the garbage will be left on the streets. Think about things when you make your decision.

Harrison resident Richard Dionisio addressed the Board. This all sounds good that we are going to save money but the reality is after the first year the businesses are at the private carter's mercy. This proposal will lead to bedlam on Halstead Avenue. Sanitation trucks will be collecting refuse at all times of the day. People are going to start dumping illegally. He commended the DPW employees for all their hard work. This is one of our services and it keeps our town clean. It is unfair that some places have pails where they should have had a dumpster. I took my dumpster off my property to see what would happen if I used pails and I was fine. Mr. Dionisio opined that if the Board does this why should people be penalized? We should all be treated equally.

Harrison resident Lucille Held asked if we have money in the "coffers" why are we still raising taxes? You said you were going to save money and labor with the new one arm trucks. Where is the money? You need to learn to spend the money where we need it.

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Jim McGrath (Status Unknown) asked the Board if the Board sat down with anybody to talk about this before they do it. Did the Board communicate with the union about it because maybe they can help you? Maybe try a four can limit for the businesses before you start letting them get charged for the garbage. Can you comingle?

Mayor Belmont said the town cannot comingle. We can pick up bottles and cans for the residents but not commercial.

Commissioner of Public Works Anthony Robinson said the numbers speak for themselves. The two options that were on the table were to eliminate the service and get rid of the capital request for two pick up vehicles at \$500,000 and to eliminate the five positions that are vacant or recoup 100% of our cost. This is my request. My recommendation was to eliminate commercial and that is the decision I am waiting for.

Trustee Malfitano said in the interest of having the people understand what the "or" is, we ought to make sure that everyone understands that this Board could effect what the "or" is and that is a substantial increase in the cost to everybody in the commercial district.

Commissioner of Public Works Anthony Robinson said when we did the estimates for the change and recouped 100% of the money from the businesses those costs would exceed that of private carting.

Trustee Amelio asked Commissioner Robinson if he could address the employees because she thought the large number of men here tonight had concerns about their jobs.

Commissioner of Public Works Anthony Robinson said the elimination of commercial refuse has nothing to do with the men that are working for us now. There are positions that are vacant within the budget or become vacant upon retirements or other reasons people leave. We have three vacant positions now that we would not fill if this was abolished. We have two that will come off the books in May which we will also not fill. In next year's operating budget those positions would be eliminated totally and the costs associated with them such as salaries, benefits and worker's compensation. It is not impacting any man currently on our staff.

Trustee Stout said it was his understanding that every taxpayer would be treated the same whether you are a resident or a commercial property. All would get two pails per week. Whether we did the "or" or went private, folks would still have that same option to reduce down to a certain number of pails.

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Commissioner of Public Works Anthony Robinson said if the numbers of that become absorbent then I would still need a crew to pick that up. If this is part of an option that the Board wants to consider then we will accommodate that and make it work.

Trustee Malfitano said when these discussions started we did not have a discussion on making the two pail limit available to everyone no matter what amount of refuge, pails and containers they were putting out.

Trustee Stout replied he disagreed with that.

Commissioner of Public Works Anthony Robinson said that is how he thought he presented it.

Trustee Malfitano said that is how it was presented and if the discussion now is we should give consideration to, as our good friend and business owner suggested, that everyone who has pails or even a dumpster be given the option or the opportunity to place two pails, which could alleviate some of the costs of the additional private pick up, that's different, that wasn't presented but if that is something that this Board wants to think about and consider we should do that.

Trustee Stout said I'm speaking for me. A taxpayer is a taxpayer and if I get two pails at my house I should get two pails at my business.

Commissioner of Public Works Anthony Robinson said that is not the intent of the whole program. The program treats commercial entities differently then residents. That is why it was implemented.

Trustee Malfitano said the reason we were able to take 46 stops and make that work was because that number could be assimilated into the regular garbage program.

Mayor Belmont said I thought that number could possibility go up to 100. Didn't we discuss that?

Commissioner of Public Works Anthony Robinson replied that 100 was the number of stops that had pails but not that had two or less. To get the benefit of not having to pay for a dumpster some places have 10 pails.

Mayor Belmont said if you want to analyze it more we can but to give someone two pails is fine but to have him on a dumpster route as well with private he will be getting four pick ups a week.

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Trustee Malfitano said if we suddenly go from 46 to over 120 stops that we didn't anticipate you are going to have to keep the program as is.

Trustee Sciliano said I don't think that is the case.

Trustee Amelio said since this is certainly now a concern we need to continue to discuss it.

Trustee Stout said there are clearly establishments in the community that everyone would say is commercial that should be not handled by us; I would like to look at what that number is if everyone got two pails.

Commissioner of Public Works Anthony Robinson said we designated stops commercial by the way they were assessed. We treated all commercial entities the same.

Mayor Belmont said in retrospect that really wasn't fair.

Commissioner of Public Works Anthony Robinson disagreed. If you are going to have a commercial garbage program then you would include all the commercial entities which is what we did. My first choice was to eliminate all commercial stops but the Board was not willing to consider that because they felt if there was only a limited amount of pails we should provide the service as a residential stop. I agreed to that and that is what I proposed.

Trustee Ameilio said I think this needs further discussion.

Harrison resident James Murabito said he would venture to say that ten years ago there were more businesses then currently. In the last ten years many single family homes have been demolished and two family homes have replaced them.

Mayor Belmont said those are routes that are already existing. The commercial routes have increased due to an influx of merchants in town. Residential routes are a completely separate entity in the town. Commercial refuse are two separate routes.

Harrison resident Lucille Held said you owe it to a resident or store keeper to pick up their garbage and keep the image of what Harrison is.

Harrison resident Robert Porto asked the Board if they were out of money and why are you doing this; you are taking away from the people.

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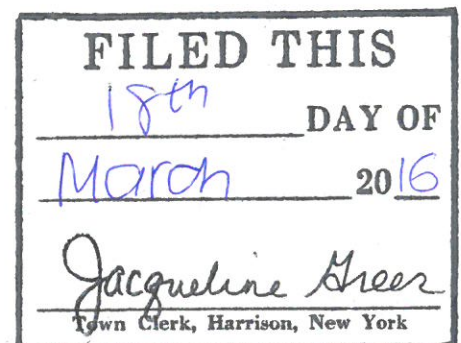
V - - 2016 - - 016 (Continued)

Harrison resident Richard Dionisio asked the Board what happened to the disabled senior and veteran's garbage pickup. There are a lot of people who can't pull their garbage down the driveway to the curb. This was something that was supposed to be addressed years ago and it was said that it was going to be taken care of.

Mayor Belmont said this is an issue I brought up to the Commissioner several weeks ago and we are looking at that. The previous administration said if you can show that you are disabled an accommodations would be made for the individual. The problem is there were 1,000's of people that were disabled and came out with doctor's notes.

Harrison resident Dave Christiano said he owns 6 or 7 properties in the commercial area that have small businesses. Lately we have been overwhelmed with all the new inspection fees and additional charges from the water works for backflow devices. The rents that I receive are not astronomical and whatever falls upon the owner of the property will trickle down to the renter. I see you having a major problem with the smaller businesses if you go to commercial refuse pick-up because they are not going to be able to afford to pay it. I am hearing that if you keep the commercial garbage you are going to charge 100% of the cost. You are talking about making up \$700,000 and you get \$240,000 now so we would have to pay four times what we are paying now which will be a major burden on the businesses.

Mayor Belmont said this Board needs to discuss this further.



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V - - 2016 - - 017
MATTERS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel: 1

On motion duly made and seconded,
with all members voting in favor,
the Meeting was recessed to Executive Session at 8:36 P.M.

March 17, 2016

V - - 2016 - - 018

AUTHORIZATION FOR A PAYMENT TO GRIGG & DAVIS FOR EMERGENCY
REPAIRS AT THE LEO MINTZER BUILDING

On motion of Trustee Sciliano, seconded by Trustee Amelio,

it was

RESOLVED to authorize payment of \$50,000.00 to Grigg & Davis for structural repair documentation and specifications for emergency repairs at the Leo Mintzer Building.

FURTHER RESOLVED that funding is available in the DPW Capital Account 14GB10.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Superintendent of Recreation, the Commissioner of Public Works and the Comptroller.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Trustees Amelio, Malfitano, Sciliano and Stout
Mayor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

There being no further matters to come before the Board,
the Meeting was, on motion duly made and seconded,
declared closed at 11:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Greer
Village Clerk

